number of BPL families in Kerala is 15.54 lakhs. Foodgrain allocations under TPDS for these families are being made.

(c) No, Sir.

Expansion of foodgrains storage facility

†644. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken for expansion of foodgrains storage facility in the areas relating to shortage of foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether some new godowns are being constructed for expansion of foodgrains storage system in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) During the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) the FCI has proposed to construct 4.04 lakhs MTs storage capacity in the country particularly in North East Region, Sikkim, J&K as well as other States like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand etc., where storage capacity is inadequate.

In addition, under the Plan Scheme for construction of storage godowns Government is providing financial assistance to the State Governments of North East Region including Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir for creation of 30,160 MTs storage capacity in the North East Region and Jammu & Kashmir.

During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, priority will be accorded to creation of additional storage capacity in the North East Region, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir by the State Governments with financial assistance from the Government under the Plan Scheme for construction of storage godowns.

Further, under the National Policy of Bulk Handling, Storage and Transportation of foodgrains, a capacity of 5.5 lakh MTs is being created both in procuring and deficit States on Build, Own and Operate (BOO) basis.

In addition, full powers have been given to the FCI to hire additional storage capacity at the micro level/for meeting the emergent requirement, from the Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporations/State Governments and private parties for storage of foodgrains.

(b) and (c) At present, no godown is being State of Uttarakhand.

Electronic weighing and measuring machine

†645. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new electronic weighing and measuring machines are being used in the matter of trade;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the seal is being given according to the rules of the Weights and Measures Act, 1948. every year;

(c) whether Government would consider to amend the said laws to give that seal after every five years instead of one year as at present: and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir. New electronic weighing and measuring machines are used in the trade alongwith conventional weighing and measuring instruments of mechanical or analogue type.

(b) The provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 and the Rules framed thereunder provide for verification period for different type of weight or measure, depending upon the nature of weight or measure, to retain accuracy of measurement.

(c) and (d) In view of the reply stated at (b) above, increasing the period of verification to once in five years will not be in the interest of consumers.

Polio cases

646. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been alarmed over fresh polio cases in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether in the month of December, 2006, thirteen fresh polio cases have been reported in the country taking the total number of children affected with the disease to 610 in 2006;

(c) whether during 2005 only 66 polio cases were reported in the country;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for emerging fresh polio cases in the country after it was fully controlled; and

(e) the steps proposed to take to check the polio cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) In 2007, Polio cases have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. There are no polio cases reported from Kerala and Punjab in 2007. Kerla reported the last polio case in the year 2000. Last polio case in Punjab was in 2006.

(b) There were 28 polio cases with onset of paralysis in December, 2006. The total polio cases count in 2006 is 676.